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Constitutional Court Law

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Federal Law on Constitutional Court

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[Russian Federation Federal Constitutional Law No. 1-FKZ, signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated 21 July 1994: "On the Russian Federation Constitutional Court"]

[Text] Adopted by the State Duma 24 June 1994. Approved by the Federation Council 12 July 1994.

Section One. Organization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and the Status of Justices

Chapter I. General Statutes

Article 1. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court—the Judicial Organ of Constitutional Control

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is the judicial organ of constitutional control, autonomously and independently exercising judicial authority by means of constitutional legal proceedings.

Article 2. Legislation on the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The powers, procedure for the formation, and activity of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law.

Article 3. Powers of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

With a view to protecting the foundations of the constitutional system and the basic rights and freedoms of the individual and the citizen, and with a view to ensuring the supremacy and direct action of the Russian Federation Constitution on the entire territory of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court:

1) resolves cases on the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of:
   a) federal laws and normative acts issued by the Russian Federation president, the Federation Council, the State Duma, and the Russian Federation Government;
   b) republic constitutions, charters, and laws and other normative acts issued by Russian Federation components on matters pertaining to the jurisdiction of Russian Federation organs of state power and to the joint jurisdiction of Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power;
   c) agreements between Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power, agreements between Russian Federation component organs of state power;
   d) Russian Federation international treaties that have not come into force;
2) resolves disputes about competence:
   a) between federal organs of state power;
   b) between Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power;
   c) between top state organs in Russian Federation components;
3) following complaints about the violation of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms and at the request of the courts, verifies the constitutionality of the law applied or due to be applied in a specific case;
4) interprets the Russian Federation Constitution;
5) delivers its findings on the observance of the established procedure for charging the Russian Federation president with treason or any other serious crime;
6) takes legislative initiatives on questions within its own purview [po voprosam svoyego vedeniya];
7) exercises certain powers granted to it by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federation Treaty, and federal constitutional laws; it can also exercise rights granted to it by treaties concluded in accordance with Article 11 of the Russian Federation Constitution on the demarcation of jurisdiction and powers between Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power, if these rights do not contravene its legal nature and role as the judicial organ of constitutional control.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court rules exclusively on questions of law.

In carrying out constitutional judicial proceedings the Russian Federation Constitutional Court refrains from establishing and investigating factual circumstances in all cases when this falls within the remit of other courts or other organs.

On questions of its internal activity the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts the standing orders of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 4. Composition and Procedure for the Formation of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and the Duration of its Powers

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is made up of 19 justices appointed by the Federation Council on the basis of a submission from the Russian Federation president.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is entitled to implement its activity provided that no fewer than three-quarters of the total number of justices are present.

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The Russian Federation Constitutional Court's powers are not limited to any set period.

Article 5. Main Principles of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's Activity

The main principles of the activity of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are independence, collegiality, glasnost, the adversarial nature of the proceedings, and the equality of the parties.

Article 6. The Binding Nature of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Rulings

Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings are binding on the entire territory of the Russian Federation for all representative, executive, and judicial organs of state power, organs of local self-government, enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials, citizens, and their associations.

Article 7. Guarantees of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's Activity

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is independent of all other organs in organizational, financial, material, and technical terms. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is funded out of the federal budget, which makes it possible for it to independently carry out constitutional judicial proceedings in full. The federal budget annually makes provision in a separate article for the funds necessary to ensure the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's activity, funds which the Russian Federation Constitutional Court handles independently. Russian Federation Constitutional Court spending estimates cannot fall below the level of the previous financial year.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court autonomously and independently effects information and personnel support of its own activity.

The property under the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's operational control and required by it to carry out its activity is federal property. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court can vest the right of operational control over this property in structural subunits making up its apparatus.

No restrictions of any kind are permitted on the legal, organizational, financial, information, material, technical, personnel, or other conditions for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's activity laid down by this federal constitutional law.

Chapter II. Status of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Article 8. Requirements of Candidates for the Position of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justice

A Russian Federation citizen who has by the date of appointment attained the age of at least 40, with an unblemished reputation, high legal education, at least 15 years' experience in the legal profession, and recognized high qualifications in the legal sphere may be appointed as a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice.

Article 9. Procedure for Appointing Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Proposals on candidates for the position of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices may be submitted to the Russian Federation president by members (deputies) of the Federation Council and by State Duma deputies, as well as by legislative (representative) organs in Russian Federation components, higher judicial organs, federal legal departments, all-Russia legal associations, and legal scientific and educational establishments.

The Federation Council examines the question of the appointment of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice not less than 14 days from the time the Russian Federation president's submission is received.

Each Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice is appointed individually by secret ballot. A person winning a majority of the votes of the total number of Federation Council members (deputies) is deemed to have been appointed a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice.

In the event of a justice's leaving the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, a submission to appoint another person to the vacancy is made by the Russian Federation president to the Federation Council no later than one month from the date when the vacancy arose.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice whose term has expired continues to exercise the duties of justice until a new justice is appointed or until a final ruling is handed down on a case begun with that justice's participation.

Article 10. Oath Taken by Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Under a procedure laid down by the Federation Council, the Federation Council chairman swears in persons appointed as Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices take the following oath: "I swear honestly and conscientiously to carry out the duties of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice, obeying only the Russian Federation Constitution, nothing and no one else."

Article 11. Occupations and Actions Incompatible With the Status of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justice

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice cannot be a member (deputy) of the Federation Council, a deputy of the State Duma or other representative organs, hold or retain any other state or public duties, have a private practice, or engage in entrepreneurial or

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other paid activity apart from teaching, academic, and other creative activity which poses no impediment to the fulfillment of the duties of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice and cannot constitute a valid reason for being absent from a session if the Russian Federation Constitutional Court has not given its consent.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice is not entitled to provide a defense or representation, other than legal representation, in a court, court of arbitration, or other organs, or to provide patronage for anyone whatsoever in obtaining rights or in relieving them of their duties.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice cannot belong to political parties and movements, support them materially, take part in political actions, conduct political propaganda or campaigning, take part in election campaigns to organs of state power or organs of local self-government, attend congresses and conferences of political parties and movements, or engage in other political activity. Nor can they be part of the leadership of any public associations, even if these do not pursue political goals.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are not entitled, when writing in the press or appearing in the mass media or before any other audience, to publicly state their views of a matter which could be subject to examination by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court or which is is under examination or has been adopted for examination by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, before a decision on the matter has been handed down.

Nothing in this article can be seen as limiting the rights of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices to freely express their will as citizens and voters by voting in elections and referendums.

Article 12. Term of the Powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are appointed for 12 years. The age limit for a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice is 70.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices may not be appointed for a second term.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are deemed to have taken office from the moment they are sworn in. Their powers end on the last day of the month in which their term expires or in which they reach 70.

Article 13. Guarantees of the Independence of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

The independence of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices is ensured by their irremovability, immunity, the equality of the justices' rights, the procedure laid down by this federal constitutional law for suspending and terminating the powers of justices, their right to resign, the binding nature of the procedure laid down for constitutional legal proceedings, the ban on any kind of interference in their judicial activity, and the granting to the justices of material and social support and security guarantees commensurate with their lofty status.

Material guarantees of the independence of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices relating to their pay, the provision of annual leave, social provision, housing provision, social and consumer services, compulsory state life and health insurance for the justices and for the property belonging to them and their family members are laid down in conformity with the corresponding guarantees stipulated by Russian Federation legislation for other top federal judges. In the event of other legal acts making provision for other norms for Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices that enhance the level of their legal protection and material and social provision, the provisions of those acts apply.

Article 14. Irremovability of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices cannot be removed.

The powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices can be terminated or suspended only under the procedure and on the grounds laid down by this federal constitutional law.

Article 15. Immunity of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices enjoy immunity. They cannot be the subject of criminal or administrative proceedings in court, detained, arrested, or subjected to investigation without the consent of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court (save in cases of arrest at the scene of a crime), or subjected to a personal examination (save when stipulated by federal law to safeguard the security of others).

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices whose identity cannot be ascertained at the time of their arrest are to be released immediately their identity is established.

An official arresting a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice at the scene of a crime immediately informs the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, which must rule within 24 hours on giving or refusing to give its consent to the further application of this procedural measure.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices cannot be subject to any proceedings, even when their powers have expired, for the opinions they express at a Russian Federation Constitutional Court session, or for a ruling handed down by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

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Article 16. Equality of Rights of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices enjoy equal rights.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices have the right of a deciding vote on all issues examined by plenary sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court or by sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court chamber of which they are members.

The powers of the chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are laid down by this federal constitutional law.

Article 17. Suspension of the Powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

The powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices may be suspended in the event of:

1) the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's giving its consent to the arrest of a justice or to the institution of criminal proceedings against a justice;

2) a justice being temporarily unable to carry out his duties for health reasons.

The powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are suspended on the basis of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling adopted no later than one month from the date of the grounds for the suspension arising.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices whose powers have been suspended are not entitled to take part in Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions or to send official documents to state organs and organizations, public associations, officials, and citizens, or to demand any documents or other information from them.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court suspends justices' powers before the grounds for their suspension lapse. The restoration of justices' powers is formalized by a Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling, save in the case stipulated in Paragraph 2 of the first part of this article.

The suspension of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice's powers does not entail the suspension of the payment of the justice's salary and does not strip him of the guarantees laid down by this federal constitutional law.

Article 18. Termination of the Powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

The powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are terminated as a result of:

1) the violation of the procedure governing their appointment to the position of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law;

2) the expiry of the justice's powers or the attainment by the justice of the age limit for the position;

3) a personal letter of resignation from the justice prior to the attainment of the age limit for the position;

4) the loss by the justice of Russian Federation citizenship;

5) the handing down against the justice of a conviction that has come into legal force;

6) the commission by the justice of an act that brings the honor and dignity of justices into disrepute;

7) the continuation by the justice, despite warnings from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, of occupations or actions incompatible with his position;

8) failure by the justice to take part in Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions, or failure to vote more than twice in succession without a valid reason;

9) the justice being deemed incapable by a court ruling that has come into legal force;

10) the justice being deemed absent and his whereabouts unknown by a court ruling that has come into legal force;

11) the justice being declared dead by a court ruling that has come into legal force;

12) the death of the justice.

The powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices can also be terminated as a result of their inability for health reasons or other valid reasons to exercise their duties as justice for a long period (of not less than 10 consecutive months).

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices' powers are terminated following a ruling from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, which is sent to the Russian Federation president and the Federation Council and constitutes official notification of a vacancy.

The termination of the powers of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice on the grounds given in Paragraph 1 of the first part of this article is effected by the Federation Council on the basis of a submission from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The termination of the powers of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice on the grounds given in Paragraph 6 of the first part of this article is effected by the Federation Council on the basis of a submission from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopted by not less than a two-thirds majority of all the justices.

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Article 19. Resignation of Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Justices are deemed to have stood down or resigned if their powers are terminated on the grounds stipulated by Paragraphs 2, 3, and 9 of the first and second parts of Article 18 of this federal constitutional law.

Irrespective of their age, Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices with not less than 15 years' experience as judges can choose to be paid either a pension or a tax-free monthly living allowance in the amount of 80 percent of the remuneration of a sitting Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice. And the working period entitling them to receive a monthly living allowance includes the period of their previous work in the legal profession.

The procedure for setting and paying the monthly living allowance is laid down by the Russian Federation Government on the basis of a submission from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. Funds to support retired Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are allocated from the federal budget in the form of a monthly living allowance.

Certain provisions governing the status of retired judges laid down by Russian Federation legislation also extend to retired Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices.

Chapter III. Structure and Organization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's Activity

Article 20. Organizational Forms of Constitutional Judicial Proceedings

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court hears and resolves cases in plenary sessions and sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court chambers.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is made up of two chambers comprising 10 and nine Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices respectively. The membership of the chambers is determined by drawing lots, the procedure for which is laid down by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's standing orders.

All Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices take part in the plenary sessions; justices who are members of the relevant chamber take part in the chamber sessions.

The chairman and deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court cannot be members of the same chamber.

The membership of the chambers cannot remain unchanged for more than three consecutive years.

The sequence in which member justices of a chamber assume the powers of presiding justice at its sessions is determined at a chamber session.

Article 21. Questions Examined at Plenary Sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is entitled to examine at a plenary session any issue that falls within the purview of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

In its plenary sessions the Russian Federation Constitutional Court exclusively:

1) resolves cases on the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of republic constitutions and Russian Federation component charters;

2) interprets the Russian Federation Constitution;

3) rules on the observance of the established procedure for charging the Russian Federation president with treason or any other serious crime;

4) rules on the question of making a legislative initiative on issues within its jurisdiction.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court in its plenary sessions also:

1) elects the chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

2) arranges the staffing of Russian Federation Constitutional Court chambers;

3) adopts the Russian Federation Constitutional Court standing orders and makes amendments and additions to them;

4) lays down the order in which cases are to be heard at plenary sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, and distributes cases between the chambers;

5) makes rulings on the suspension or termination of the powers of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices, and on the premature dismissal [dosrochnoye osvobozhdeniye ot dolzhnosti] of the chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 22. Issues Examined at Russian Federation Constitutional Court Chamber Sessions

In its chamber sessions the Russian Federation Constitutional Court resolves cases which fall within the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's jurisdiction and are unsuitable, in line with this federal constitutional law, for examination exclusively in plenary sessions.

In its chamber sessions the Russian Federation Constitutional Court:

1) resolves cases of the conformity with the Russian Federation Constitution of:

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a) federal laws and normative acts issued by the Russian Federation president, the Federation Council, the State Duma, and the Russian Federation Government;

b) laws and other normative acts issued by Russian Federation components on issues pertaining to the jurisdiction of Russian Federation organs of state power and the joint jurisdiction of Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power;

c) agreements between Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power, and agreements between Russian Federation component organs of state power;

d) Russian Federation international treaties that have not come into force;

2) settles disputes about jurisdiction:

a) between federal organs of state power;

b) between Russian Federation organs of state power and Russian Federation component organs of state power;

c) between top state organs in Russian Federation components;

3) on the basis of complaints about the violation of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms and at the request of the courts, verifies the constitutionality of the law applied or due to be applied in a specific case.

Article 23. Election of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Justice-Secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

In a plenary session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices elect from among their number by secret ballot and by a majority of all the justices on an individual basis for a three-year term the chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

At the end of their term the chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court can be elected for another term.

The chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court can resign their powers by a personal letter of resignation. A resignation is noted [slozheniye polnomochiy konstatiruyetsya] by a Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling.

On the basis of an initiative from not less than five Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices who believe that the chairman, deputy chairman, or justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are not being conscientious in the performance of their duties or are abusing their rights, the question of their premature dismissal from their position can be raised. The question of the premature dismissal of the above officials is decided by a majority of no fewer than two-thirds of the total number of Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices by secret ballot.

In the event of the position of chairman, deputy chairman, or justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court falling vacant, new elections will be held no less than two months from the date of the vacancy arising under the procedure laid down by this article. Upon the expiry of their powers the aforesaid officials continue to perform their duties until new elections are held.

Article 24. The Chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court:

1) is in charge of preparations for plenary sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, convenes them, and chairs them;

2) submits for discussion by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court issues to be examined by plenary sessions and chamber sessions;

3) represents the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in relations with state organs, organizations, and public associations, and, on the authorization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, issues statements on its behalf;

4) exercises overall leadership of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court apparatus, submits for ratification by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court the candidates for the leadership of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat, other apparatus subdivisions, certain Russian Federation Constitutional Court services, as well as the Statute on the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat and the apparatus' staffing levels;

5) exercises other powers in accordance with this federal constitutional law and the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's standing orders.

The chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court issues orders and directives.

Article 25. Temporary Performance of the Duties of Chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

In every case when the chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is unable to perform his duties, they are temporarily performed by the deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

In the event of the deputy chairman of the Russian Federation being unable to perform the chairman's

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duties, performance of these duties will pass in sequence to the justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, to the justice with the longest experience of work as a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice, and—if justices have equal experience—to the oldest Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice.

Article 26. The Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

On the authorization of the chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, the deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court performs some of his functions, as well as his own duties entrusted to him by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 27. The Justice-Secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court:

1) is directly in charge of the work of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court apparatus;
2) organizationally ensures the preparation and holding of Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions;
3) brings rulings adopted by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to the attention of the appropriate organs, organizations, and individuals, and informs the Russian Federation Constitutional Court about their implementation;
4) organizes information support for Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices;
5) exercises other powers in accordance with this federal constitutional law and the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's standing orders.

Article 28. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court's Standing Orders

On the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's standing orders lay down: the procedure for determining the staffing of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court chambers; the procedure for distributing cases between them; the procedure for determining the sequence in which cases will be heard at plenary sessions and at chamber sessions; certain regulations governing procedure and etiquette at sessions; the features of legal proceedings at the Russian Federation Constitutional Court; requirements for workers at the Russian Federation Constitutional Court apparatus; and certain issues pertaining to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's internal activities.

Section Two. General Rules of Procedure at the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

Chapter IV. Principles of Constitutional Judicial Proceedings

Article 29. Independence

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are independent and are guided in exercising their powers solely by the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law.

In their activity Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices act in a personal capacity and do not represent any state or public organs, political parties and movements, state, public, or other enterprises, institutions, or organizations, officials, state or territorial formations, ethnic groups [natsii], or social groups.

Rulings and other acts of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court reflect the legal position of the justices, which is free from political bias and corresponds to the Russian Federation Constitution.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices adopt rulings under conditions which rule out any external influence on their freedom of expression. They are not entitled to request or receive from anyone instructions on issues adopted for preliminary study or under examination by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 30. Collegiality

The examination of cases and issues and the adoption of rulings on them is done in collegial fashion. A ruling is adopted solely by the justices who took part in hearing the case during the court session.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court has authority to hand down rulings in plenary sessions attended by no fewer than two-thirds of all the justices, and in a chamber session attended by no fewer than three-quarters of its members.

Justices who have been removed from hearing a case and justices whose powers have been suspended are not taken into account when determining the quorum.

Article 31. Glasnost

Cases are heard by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in open session. The holding of closed sessions is only permitted in the instances stipulated by this federal constitutional law. Rulings handed down in both open and closed sessions are made public.

Article 32. Oral Nature of Investigation

The investigation of cases at Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions is done orally. In the course of the hearing the Russian Federation Constitutional Court hears explanations from the parties and testimony from experts and witnesses, and reads out the documents to hand.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions may not read out documents which were submitted to familiarize the justices and the parties with the case or whose contents were set out in the course of the session on the case in question.

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Article 33. Language of Constitutional Judicial Proceedings

Proceedings at the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are conducted in Russian.

Parties to the trial without a knowledge of Russian are entitled to give explanations in another language and to use the services of an interpreter.

Article 34. Uninterrupted Nature of Judicial Sessions

Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions on each case are held without interruption, excluding time set aside for rest or required to prepare the parties to the trial for further investigation, or to eradicate circumstances hampering the normal course of the session.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court cannot hear other cases in plenary session until a ruling on a case being heard in plenary session is handed down or the session is postponed.

A chamber of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court cannot hear other cases falling, under this federal constitutional law, within the chamber's remit until a ruling on the case being heard is handed down or the hearing is postponed.

Other cases can be heard at chamber sessions before a ruling on a case being heard in plenary session by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is handed down. Other cases can be heard in plenary session before a ruling on a case being heard by a chamber session is handed down.

Article 35. Adversarial Nature and Equal Rights of the Parties

The sides enjoy equal rights and opportunities in defending their position on an adversarial basis at Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions.

Chapter V. Appeals to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

Article 36. Reasons and Grounds for Examination of a Case by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The reason for a case to be heard by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is an appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in the form of a request, petition, or complaint meeting the requirements of this federal constitutional law.

The grounds for a case to be heard are the emergence of uncertainty on the question of whether a law, other normative act, agreement between organs of state power, or an international treaty that has not come into force complies with the Russian Federation Constitution, or the emergence of a contradiction in the parties' positions on the possession of powers [prinadlezhnost polnomochiy] in disputes over competence, or the emergence of uncertainty regarding the interpretation of provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution, or the charging of the Russian Federation president with treason or another serious crime by the State Duma.

Article 37. General Requirements for the Appeal

Appeals are sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in writing and are signed by an authorized official (authorized officials).

The appeal may indicate:

1) the Russian Federation Constitutional Court as the organ to which the appeal is being sent;

2) the name of the petitioner (in a complaint from a citizen—the surname, given name, and patronymic); the address and other information about the petitioner;

3) necessary information about the petitioner's representative and his powers, save in cases where ex-officio representation is provided;

4) the name and address of the state organ which issued the act to be verified, or which is party to the dispute over competence;

5) the norms of the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law which provide the right of appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

6) the precise name, number, date of adoption, source of publication, and other information about the act to be verified or the Russian Federation Constitution provision subject to interpretation;

7) the specific grounds indicated in this federal constitutional law for the examination of the appeal by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

8) the petitioner's position on the question raised and its legal substantiation with reference to the relevant norms of the Russian Federation Constitution;

9) a demand made in connection with the request, petition, or complaint to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

10) a list of appended documents.

Article 38. Documents Appended to an Appeal

Appended to an appeal sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are:

1) the text of the act to be verified or the provision of the Russian Federation Constitution to be interpreted;

2) a power of attorney or other document confirming the powers of the petitioner, save in cases of ex-officio representation, and copies of documents confirming an individual's right to appear as a petitioner before the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

3) a document on the payment of state fees;

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4) translation into Russian of all documents and other materials written in a different language.

Lists of witnesses and experts whom it is proposed to call for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court session may be appended, along with other documents and materials.

The appeal and the documents and other materials appended to it in accordance with the first part of this article are submitted to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court with 30 copies. Citizens submit the necessary documents with three copies.

Article 39. The State Fee

Appeals to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are charged the following state fee:

request and petition—15 times the minimum wage;

complaint from a corporate body—15 times the minimum wage;

complaint from a citizen—one minimum wage.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court at its own discretion may exempt a citizen, given his material position, from paying the state fee, or may reduce it.

Requests from courts, requests to interpret the Russian Federation Constitution, petitions from the Russian Federation president on disputes about competence when he is not party to these disputes, and requests for a ruling on the observance of the established procedure for charging the Russian Federation president with treason or another serious crime are not subject to the state fee.

The state fee is repayable if the appeal is not accepted for examination.

Chapter VI. Preliminary Examination of Appeals

Article 40. Examination of Appeals by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat

Appeals sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are subject to compulsory registration.

In cases where the appeal:

1) clearly does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

2) does not meet the requirements of this federal constitutional law in terms of its format;

3) comes from an inappropriate [nenadlezhashiy] organ or person;

4) or is not accompanied by the state fee, if not stipulated to the contrary by this federal constitutional law, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat informs the petitioner that his appeal does not meet the requirements of this federal constitutional law. The petitioner is entitled to demand that the Russian Federation Constitutional Court make a ruling on this issue.

Once the deficiencies indicated in Paragraphs 2 and 4 of the second part of this article have been eradicated, the petitioner is entitled to resubmit the appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

In the event of the appeal clearly not coming under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat can refer it to the state organs or organizations competent to resolve the issues raised in it.

Article 41. Preliminary Study of the Appeal by Russian Federation Constitutional Court Justices

Under the procedure laid down by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court the chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court instructs one or several justices to make a preliminary study of the appeal, to be completed no later than two months from the time the appeal is registered. The preliminary study of the appeal by the justice (justices) is a mandatory stage of the proceedings in the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. The findings of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice (justices) on the results of the preliminary study of the appeal are reported to a plenary session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 42. Adoption of the Appeal for Examination

A decision on the question of the adoption of an appeal for examination is made by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in plenary session no later than one month from the time of the completion of the preliminary study of the appeal by the justice (justices).

The parties are informed of the decision reached by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

In urgent cases the Russian Federation Constitutional Court can propose that the relevant organs and officials suspend the contested act or the process of the entry into force of the contested Russian Federation international treaty before the Russian Federation Constitutional Court has completed its examination of the case.

Article 43. Refusal to Accept An Appeal For Examination

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court makes the decision to refuse to adopt an appeal for examination in cases where:

1) the resolution of the issue raised in the appeal does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

2) the appeal is not permitted under the requirements of this federal constitutional law;

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3) a decree that is still in force has previously been issued by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the subject addressed by the appeal.

In the event of the act whose constitutionality is at issue being repealed or lapsing by the start of or during the examination of the case, the proceedings begun by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court may be halted, save in cases where citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms have been violated as a result of this act.

Article 44. Withdrawal of an Appeal

An appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court may be withdrawn by the petitioner before the case has come before a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. If the appeal is withdrawn, proceedings are halted.

Chapter VII. General Procedural Rules Governing the Examination of Cases by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

Article 45. The Convening of Sessions

Plenary sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are convened by the chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, and chamber sessions are convened by the presiding justice in the chamber.

Article 46. Procedure for Examining Issues in Plenary Sessions and Chamber Sessions

Plenary sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and sessions of its chambers use the same procedure for examining issues, unless stipulated to the contrary by this federal constitutional law or by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court standing orders.

Article 47. The Scheduling of Cases

A decision on the scheduling of a case for hearing in a plenary session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court or in chamber sessions is made by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in a plenary session no later than one month after the adoption of the appeals [prinyatiye obrashcheniy] for examination. The decision indicates the order in which cases will be heard.

Article 48. Combination of Cases

The examination of each case is the subject of a special session. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court can combine in one proceeding cases based on appeals pertaining to the same subject.

Article 49. Preparation of a Case for Hearing

One or several reporting justices are appointed to prepare a case for hearing, to compose a draft Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling, and to set out materials at a Russian Federation Constitutional Court session.

When studying an appeal and preparing a case for hearing, a reporting justice, in accordance with the powers of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, demands the necessary documents and other materials, orders checks, studies, expert assessment, and specialist consultation to be carried out, and sends requests. The reporting justice and the presiding justice at the session determine the range of people to be invited or summoned to a session, issue a directive providing notification of the time of the session and its venue, and also issue a directive on the sending of the necessary materials to the parties to the trial.

Article 50. Requirements of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The requirements of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court for the texts of normative and other legal acts, documents and copies of them, case files, information, and other materials to be submitted; for documents and texts of normative acts to be attested; for checks, studies, and expert assessments to be carried out; for definite facts to be established; for specialists to be involved; for explanations and consultation to be provided; and for professional opinions to be rendered on the cases under examination are binding on all the organs, organizations, and persons to which they are addressed. The requirements of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court must be examined and a response on the results of their examination must be sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court within one month of the receipt of these requirements, unless stipulated to the contrary by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Expenses relating to the fulfillment by state organs and organizations of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's requirements are borne by those organs and organizations. Expenses incurred by other organizations and individuals are reimbursed out of the federal budget under the procedure laid down by the Russian Federation Government.

The rejection or avoidance of the examination or enactment of the requirements, failure to carry them out, the violation of the timetable for examination or enactment, the nonfulfillment or inappropriate fulfillment of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's requirements, and the deliberate misleading of the court will incur the liability laid down by Russian Federation legislation.

Article 51. Distribution of Materials. Notification of a Session

Notification of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court session, copies of the appeals and the responses received to them, copies of the acts being verified, and, if necessary, other documents are sent to the justices and the parties to the trial no later than 10 days prior to the commencement of the session. Responses to the appeals

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are sent out within this period only if they have arrived no later than two weeks prior to the commencement of the session.

Announcements of Russian Federation Constitutional Court sessions are placed in areas of the Constitutional Court buildings that are accessible to citizens and in the mass media.

Article 52. Participants in the Trial

The participants in a Russian Federation Constitutional Court trial are the parties, their representatives, witnesses, experts, and interpreters.

Article 53. The Parties and Their Representatives

The parties in constitutional judicial proceedings are:

1) the petitioners—the organs or persons which lodged the appeal with the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

2) the organs or officials which issued or signed the act whose constitutionality is to be verified;

3) the state organs whose jurisdiction is at issue.

The parties' ex-officio representatives can be—the leader of the organ which signed the appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court; the leader of the organ which issued the contested act or which is party to the dispute over jurisdiction; the official who signed the contested act; and any member (deputy) of the Federation Council or State Duma deputy from among those who made the request [zapros]. The sides may also be represented by lawyers or persons with an academic degree in law, whose powers are confirmed by corresponding documents. Each party can have no more than three representatives.

The parties possess equal procedural rights. The parties and their representatives have the right to acquaint themselves with the case materials, expound their own position on the case, put questions to the other participants in the trial, and lodge petitions, including with regard to the disqualification of a judge. A party can submit for consideration [predstavlyat na obrashcheniye] written comments, which are to be appended to the case materials, and study the other party's comments.

The parties or their representatives are obliged to appear when summoned by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, present their case, and answer questions. The nonappearance of a party or its representative at a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court does not prevent the examination of the case, save in instances where a party applies for the case to be examined with its participation and gives a valid reason for its absence.

Article 54. Open Sessions

Sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are held openly, save in instances envisaged by this federal constitutional law. Those present have the right to record the progress of the session from their seats. At the same time filming, photography, video recording, and live radio and television relays of a session are permitted with the authorization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, with the agreement of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, may order, with a view to ensuring the safety of those attending a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, that checks be carried out on people wishing to attend a session, including checks on identity papers, and also that items brought into the courtroom be inspected and personal searches carried out.

Those present in the courtroom must adopt a respectful attitude toward the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and the accepted rules and procedures therein, and obey the presiding justice's directives regarding compliance with session procedure.

Maintenance of order at a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is assigned to bailiffs, whose demands are binding on all those present.

A person who violates procedure during a session or who fails to obey the presiding justice's lawful directives may be removed from the room following a warning. The presiding justice, with the agreement of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, may, following a warning, remove the audience in the event of their committing a breach of procedure that hampers the normal running of the session.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court may fine a person who violates procedure during a session or who fails to obey the chairman's lawful directives an amount of up to 10 times the minimum wage.

Article 55. Closed Sessions

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court schedules a closed session when this is necessary to preserve a legaly protected secret, ensure the safety of citizens, and protect public morality.

A closed session is attended by Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices, the parties, and their representatives. The possibility of attendance by other participants in the trial and the personnel of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court Secretariat, who directly ensure the normal running of a session, is decided by the chairman following coordination with the judges.

During closed sessions cases are examined in compliance with the general rules of constitutional court proceedings.

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Article 56. Barring a Justice From Taking Part in an Examination of a Case

A justice of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is barred from taking part in the examination of a case when:

1) the justice previously, by virtue of his official position, took part in adopting the act which is the object of the examination;

2) the justice's objectivity in examining a case may be questioned owing to ties by blood or marriage with the parties' representatives.

A justice of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, given the circumstances indicated in Part I of this article, is obliged to withdraw before the hearing of the case begins.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice is barred from taking part in a case by a ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopted by the majority of the justices present after hearing the justice the question of whose removal is to be decided.

Article 57. Session Procedure

At the appointed time the presiding justice, having certified the presence of a quorum, opens the session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and announces which case is due to be examined.

The presiding justice certifies the presence of the participants in the trial and verifies the credentials of the parties' representatives. In the event of any of the participants in the trial failing to appear or the sides' representatives lacking the properly formulated credentials, the presiding justice raises the question of the possibility of examining the case. In the event of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court deeming it impossible to examine the case, it is postponed.

The presiding justice explains to the parties and their representatives their rights and duties and explains to the other participants in the trial their rights, duties, and responsibility.

Article 58. The Presiding Justice

The presiding justice during a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court directs the session, taking the necessary steps to ensure the prescribed procedure for the investigation, its completeness, and a comprehensive record of the course and results thereof; removes from the investigation everything that has no bearing on the case under examination; gives the floor to justices and participants in the trial; interrupts statements by participants in the trial if they concern matters that have no bearing on the trial and deprives them of the right to speak should they arbitrarily violate the sequence of speeches, fail to implement the presiding justice's demands on two occasions, use crude or insulting expressions, and make claims and appeals liable to prosecution in law.

Objections made by any of the participants in the trial to the presiding justice's directives and actions are entered in the session minutes. The presiding justice's directives and actions can, at the suggestion of the parties or any of the justices, be reviewed by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court during the same session.

Article 59. Recording Proceedings

Minutes are kept during a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, the requirements of which are prescribed by the Standing Orders of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

A stenographic record of the session may be kept to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the minutes.

The minutes of a plenary session are signed by the chairman and justice-secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, while the minutes of a chamber session are signed by the justice presiding over the chamber session.

The parties have the right to acquaint themselves with the minutes and the stenographic record of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court session and make their own comments therein. Other participants in the trial may study the minutes and stenographic record with the authorization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Comments pertaining to the minutes or the stenographic record of the session are examined jointly by the justice presiding over the session and the reporting justice with the participation, where necessary, of the people who have submitted comments. Comments on the minutes and the stenographic record of the session, along with the ruling certifying them to be correct or inaccurate, are attached to the minutes and the stenographic record respectively.

Article 60. The Procedure for Studying Questions

The study of the merits of the case under examination at a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court begins with the reporting justice announcing the reasons and grounds for its examination, the essence of the question, the substance of the available materials, and the steps which have been taken to prepare the case for examination. The reporting justice may be asked questions by other justices of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

At the end of the reporting justice's statement the Russian Federation Constitutional Court hears the parties' proposals and adopts a decision on the procedure for studying the questions of the case.

The procedure prescribed by ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court can only be changed by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court itself. Proposals made by the justices of the Russian Federation

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Constitutional Court in the course of the examination of the case as regards the procedure for studying questions are urgently examined by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 61. Postponement of a Session

The examination of a case may be postponed if the Russian Federation Constitutional Court finds the question inadequately prepared and in need of further study, which cannot be carried out during the session itself as a result of the nonappearance of the parties, a witness, or an expert whose appearance was deemed mandatory, and also the failure to submit the requisite materials. In this case the Russian Federation Constitutional Court schedules a date to which the session is to be postponed. The session in respect of a case whose examination was postponed starts from scratch or from the moment at which it was postponed.

Article 62. Pleadings

In accordance with the procedure prescribed by ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court the presiding justice asks the parties to comment on the merits of the question under examination and cite legal arguments to substantiate their position. In the event that a party's position is upheld by several representatives, the sequence and length of their statements are determined by the party in question.

The parties and their representatives are not entitled to use their statements in the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to make political statements and declarations and must not permit insulting statements about state organs, public associations, participants in the trial, officials, and citizens.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court hears the party's pleadings in full.

Following its pleading a party may be asked questions by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court judges and the other party and, with the authorization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, by experts also.

Article 63. Experts' Findings

A person who possesses special knowledge of matters pertaining to the case under examination may be summoned to a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court as an expert. Questions on which an expert should provide findings are determined by the reporting justice or by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Prior to speaking an expert is sworn in and warned of the liability for providing false findings.

An expert is entitled, with the authorization of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, to acquaint himself with the case materials, put questions to the parties and the witnesses, and also apply to be given additional materials.

Once he has set out his findings the expert is obliged to answer further questions from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices and the parties.

Article 64. Witnesses' Testimony

Should it be necessary to investigate the actual facts which it is within the remit of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to establish, people who possess information or materials pertaining to these facts may be summoned to the session as witnesses.

Before his testimony is heard a witness is sworn in and warned of his liability for perjury.

A witness is obliged to tell the Russian Federation Constitutional Court of facts pertaining to the substance of the case under examination that are known to him personally, and answer further questions from the Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices and the parties. Where necessary he may avail himself of written comments as well as documents and other materials.

Article 65. Study of Documents

Documents may be made public during a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the initiative of the justices or on appeal from the parties. Documents whose authenticity is in doubt are not to be made public.

The originals or certified copies of the documents studied by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are, by ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, to be appended to the case materials.

Article 66. The Parties' Closing Speeches

At the end of the trial the parties' closing speeches are heard. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court may give the parties at their request time to prepare for the closing speeches.

In their closing speeches the parties are not entitled to refer to documents and facts which have not been studied by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 67. Reopening of a Case

If, after the parties' closing speeches, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court deems it necessary to clarify additional facts which are of vital significance for the examination of the case or to study new evidence, it rules that the case be reopened.

Following further study the parties have the right to deliver repeat closing speeches, but only pertaining to the fresh facts and evidence.

Article 68. Discontinuance of Proceedings

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court discontinues proceedings when grounds become known in the course of the session for refusing to accept the appeal for examination or it is established that the question covered by the law, other normative act, treaty between

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organs of state power, or Russian Federation international treaty which has not come into force whose constitutionality it is proposed to verify is not covered by the Russian Federation Constitution or, by its nature and importance, is not regarded as a constitutional matter.

Article 69. The Closure of a Hearing

Once the Russian Federation Constitutional Court deems the study of the case to be complete, the presiding justice declares the hearing closed.

Article 70. Justices' Conference on the Adoption of the Final Ruling

A final ruling on the case under examination is adopted by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court during a closed conference.

Only Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices who have examined the case in question take part in the conference. Russian Federation Constitutional Court staffers who keep a record of the proceedings and ensure the normal running of the conference may be present in the conference room.

During the conference Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices are entitled to freely set out their position on the question under discussion and ask other justices to clarify their positions. The number and duration of the statements at the conference cannot be limited.

Questions which are put to the vote and the results of the vote are recorded without fail in the conference minutes. The minutes are signed by all the justices present and are confidential.

The justices and other people present at the closed conference are not entitled to divulge the contents of the discussion and the results of the vote.

Chapter VIII. Russian Federation Constitutional Court Rulings

Article 71. Categories of Ruling

Rulings adopted by either a plenary session or a session of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court chamber constitute Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings.

A final ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the merits of any of the questions enumerated in Article 3, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this federal constitutional law is called a decree. Decrees are passed in the name of the Russian Federation.

A final ruling of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the merits of a query concerning the observance of the prescribed procedure for accusing the president of the Russian Federation of treason or of some other serious crime is called a conclusion [zaklyucheniye].

All other Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings adopted during constitutional court proceedings are called judgments [opredeleniye].

Sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court also adopt decisions on matters pertaining to the organization of its activity.

Article 72. The Adoption of a Ruling

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is adopted by an open ballot by means of a roll-call poll of the justices. In all cases the presiding justice is the last to vote.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is deemed to be adopted provided that the majority of the justices who took part in the ballot voted in favor of it and provided that no other option is envisaged by this federal constitutional law.

If votes are evenly divided during the adoption of a ruling to verify the constitutionality of a normative act, treaty between organs of state power, or a Russian Federation international treaty that has not entered into force, the ruling is considered adopted in favor of the constitutionality of the challenged act. A ruling pertaining to disputes about competence is adopted by a majority vote in all cases.

A ruling on the interpretation of the Russian Federation Constitution is adopted by a majority of no less than two-thirds of the total number of justices.

A justice of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is not entitled to abstain from or avoid voting.

Article 73. Transfer of a Case by a Russian Federation Constitutional Court Chamber for Examination in Plenary Session

If the majority of the justices taking part in a chamber session agree on the need to adopt a ruling that does not correspond to the legal position voiced in previously adopted Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings, the case is handed over to a plenary session for consideration.

Article 74. Requirements for Rulings

Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings must be based on materials studied by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts a ruling on a case by assessing both the literal meaning of the act under examination and the meaning conferred on it by official and other interpretation or by prevailing legal-administrative practice, and also on the basis of its place within the system of legal acts.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts decrees and produces conclusions solely on the subject indicated in the appeal and only in respect of the section

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of the act or the competence of the organ whose constitutionality is questioned in the appeal. When adopting decisions the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is not bound by the grounds and arguments set out in the appeal.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court decrees and conclusions are set out in the form of separate documents which indicate without fail the reasons for their adoption.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings are made public during a session and entered in the minutes if no other procedure is envisaged by this federal constitutional law or by a Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling.

Article 75. Presentation of a Ruling

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling presented in the form of a separate document, depending on the nature of the question under examination, contains the following information:

1) the title of the ruling, the date, and the place of its adoption;
2) the membership of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court which adopted the ruling;
3) the requisite data about the parties;
4) the wording of the question under examination, the reasons and grounds for its examination;
5) the norms of the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law whereby the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is entitled to examine this question;
6) the demands contained in the appeal;
7) the actual and other facts established by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;
8) the norms of the Russian Federation Constitution and this federal constitutional law by which the Russian Federation Constitutional Court was guided in adopting the ruling;
9) the arguments in favor of the ruling adopted by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and, where necessary, the arguments that disprove the parties' claims;
10) the wording of the ruling;
11) an indication of the definitive, mandatory nature of the ruling;
12) the procedure for the ruling's entry into force, as well as the procedure, dates, and special features of its implementation and publication.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court final ruling is signed by all the justices who took part in the vote.

Article 76. A Justice's Dissenting Opinion

A justice of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court who disagrees with the Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is entitled to set out his dissenting opinion in writing. A justice's dissenting opinion is attached to the case materials and is to be published along with the Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling.

A justice of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court who voted in favor of the adopted decree or conclusion on the merits of the question being examined by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, but who was left in the minority during the vote on another question or when it came to the reasoning behind the adopted ruling, is entitled to set out in writing his opinion recording his dissent with the majority of the justices. In that case the justice's written dissent is also attached to the case materials and is to be published in the VESTNIK KONSTITUTSIONNOGO SUDA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Bulletin of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court].

Article 77. Proclamation of the Ruling

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is proclaimed in full at an open session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court as soon as it is signed.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court decrees and conclusions are sent no later than two weeks after they are signed to:

justices of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court;

the parties;

the president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Commissioner for Human Rights;

the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of Arbitration of the Russian Federation, the general prosecutor of the Russian Federation, and the minister of justice of the Russian Federation.

Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings may also be sent to other state organs and organizations, public associations, officials, and citizens.

Article 78. Publication of a Ruling

Russian Federation Constitutional Court decrees and conclusions are to be published immediately in the official publications of organs of state power of the Russian Federation and Russian Federation components whom the adopted ruling concerns. Russian Federation Constitutional Court rulings are also published in VESTNIK KONSTITUTSIONNOGO SUDA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and, where necessary, in other publications.

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Article 79. The Legal Force of a RulingA Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is final, is not liable to appeal, and enters into force as soon as it is announced.

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is direct-acting and does not need to be confirmed by other organs and officials. The legal force of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court decree deeming an act unconstitutional cannot be overturned by the repeat adoption of this act.

Acts or their individual provisions which have been deemed unconstitutional become invalid; international treaties of the Russian Federation which have not entered into force and which have been deemed not to correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution are not to be enacted and applied. Rulings of courts and other bodies based on acts which have been deemed unconstitutional are not to be implemented and should be reviewed in cases prescribed by federal law.

When the acknowledgment of a normative act to be unconstitutional has created a gap in legal regulation, the Constitution of the Russian Federation is applied directly.

Article 80. Dates for Implementation of a Ruling

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is to be implemented as soon as it is published or as soon as the official text of it is delivered provided that other dates are not specially stipulated therein.

Article 81. Consequences of Nonimplementation of a Ruling

Nonimplementation, improper implementation, or prevention of the implementation of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling entails the liability prescribed by federal law.

Article 82. Correction of Inaccuracies in a Ruling

After announcing a ruling the Russian Federation Constitutional Court may correct inaccuracies therein in names, symbols, misspellings, and obvious editorial and technical errors, on which it passes a judgment.

Article 83. Explanation of a Ruling

A Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling can only be officially explained by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court itself during a plenary session or a session of the chamber which adopted this ruling following a petition by organs and persons which have the right to appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, other organs, and people to whom it was sent.

The question of explaining the Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling is examined during a plenary session or session of the chamber which adopted this decision, with the participation of the petitioning organ or person. Organs and people who acted as the parties in the case under examination are also invited to attend the session.

Judgment is passed with regard to the explanation of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court ruling and is set out in the form of a separate document liable to publication in those publications where the actual ruling was published.

Section Three. Special Features of Procedure in the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in Respect of Certain Categories of Cases

Chapter IX. Examination of Cases on the Accordance With the Russian Federation Constitution of Normative Acts of Organs of State Power and Treaties Between Them

Article 84. The Right To Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, one-fifth of the members (deputies) of the Federation Council or deputies of the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of Arbitration of the Russian Federation, and organs of legislative and executive power of Russian Federation components have the right to ask the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of normative acts of organs of state power and treaties between them mentioned in Article 125 (Part 2) of the Russian Federation Constitution.

Article 85. The Admissibility of a Request

A request for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of a normative act of an organ of state power or treaty between organs of state power or individual provisions thereof is admissible if the applicant considers that they should not be in operation owing to their unconstitutionality or that they should be in operation contrary to the official decision of federal organs of state power, supreme state organs of Russian Federation components, or their officials to refuse to apply and implement them on the grounds that they do not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution.

Article 86. Limits of Verification

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court establishes the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of normative acts of organs of state power and treaties between them:

1) in terms of the substance of the norms;

2) in terms of the form of the normative act or treaty;

3) in terms of the procedure for their signing, conclusion, adoption, publication, or entry into effect;

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4) from the viewpoint of the separation of state power into the legislature, executive, and judiciary prescribed by the Russian Federation Constitution;

5) from the viewpoint of the demarcation of competence between federal organs of state power prescribed by the Russian Federation Constitution;

6) from the viewpoint of the demarcation of spheres of responsibility and powers between organs of state power of the Russian Federation and organs of state power of Russian Federation components prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federation Treaty, and other treaties governing the demarcation of spheres of responsibility and powers.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court verifies the constitutionality of normative acts of organs of state power and treaties between them adopted prior to the entry into force of the Russian Federation Constitution solely in terms of the content of the norms.

Article 87. The Final Ruling on the Case

On the basis of the results of the examination of a case to verify the constitutionality of a normative act of an organ of state power or treaty between organs of state power, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts one of the following rulings:

1) acknowledging that the normative act or treaty or individual provisions thereof corresponds to the Russian Federation Constitution;

2) acknowledging that the normative act or treaty or individual provisions thereof do not correspond to the Russian Federation Constitution.

The acknowledgment that a normative act or treaty or individual provisions thereof does not correspond to the Russian Federation Constitution is the basis for the abrogation, in accordance with prescribed procedure, of the provisions of other normative acts based on the normative act or treaty which has been deemed unconstitutional, or which reproduce it, or which contain the same provisions as those that were the subject of the appeal. The provisions of these normative acts and treaties cannot be applied by courts, other organs, and officials.

Chapter X. The Examination of Cases on the Accordance With the Russian Federation Constitution of International Treaties That Have Not Entered Into Force

Article 88. The Right To Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, one-fifth of the members (deputies) of the Federation Council or deputies of the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of Arbitration of the Russian Federation, and organs of legislative and executive power of Russian Federation components have the right to ask the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of a Russian Federation international treaty that has not entered into force.

Article 89. The Admissibility of the Request

A request to verify the constitutionality of a Russian Federation international treaty that has not entered into force is admissible if:

1) the Russian Federation international treaty mentioned in the request is liable, according to the Russian Federation Constitution and federal law, to ratification by the State Duma or approval [utverdzheniye] by another federal organ of state power;

2) the applicant considers that the Russian Federation international treaty that has not entered into force should not be brought into effect and applied in the Russian Federation owing to its failure to correspond to the Russian Federation Constitution.

Article 90. Limits of Verification

The limits of Russian Federation Constitutional Court verification of the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of an international treaty of the Russian Federation that has not entered into force are prescribed by Article 86 of this federal constitutional law.

Article 91. The Final Ruling on the Case

On the basis of the results of the examination of the case to verify the constitutionality of an international treaty of the Russian Federation that has not entered into force, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts one of the following decisions:

1) acknowledging that the international treaty of the Russian Federation that has not entered into force or individual provisions thereof correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution;

2) acknowledging that the international treaty of the Russian Federation which has not entered into force or individual provisions thereof do not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution.

From the time of the announcement of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court decree acknowledging that an international treaty of the Russian Federation that has not entered into force or individual provisions thereof does not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution, the international treaty is not liable to be brought into effect or applied, that is, it cannot be ratified or approved and cannot enter into force for the Russian Federation by other means.

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Chapter XI. The Examination of Cases on Disputes About Competence

Any of the organs of state power mentioned in Article 125 (Part 3) of the Russian Federation Constitution that are involved in a dispute about competence, and also the president of the Russian Federation, as envisaged by Article 85 (Part 1) of the Russian Federation Constitution, has the right to petition the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to resolve a dispute about competence.

Article 93. The Admissibility of the Petition

A petition from an organ (organs) of state power is admissible if:

1) the disputed competence is laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution;

2) the dispute does not concern the question of the case coming under the general jurisdiction of the courts or specific court jurisdiction [voprosa o podvedomstvennosti dela sudam ili o podsudnosti];

3) the dispute was not or cannot be resolved by other means;

4) the applicant considers that the publication of an act or the performance of legal actions or the failure to publish an act or perform an action is a violation of the demarcation of competence between organs of state power prescribed by the Russian Federation Constitution;

5) the petitioner previously sent a written statement to the organs of state power mentioned in Article 125 (Part 3) of the Russian Federation Constitution about their violation of the petitioner's competence as laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution and treaties or about these organs' failure to perform a duty within their competence;

6) within a month from receipt of the written statement mentioned in Paragraph 5 of this section the said violations are not eliminated;

7) in the event of a request by the corresponding organ of state power to the president of the Russian Federation to employ the conciliation procedures envisaged by Article 85 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the president of the Russian Federation has not made use of these conciliation procedures within a month of the appeal or these procedures have failed to settle the dispute.

A petition from the president of the Russian Federation submitted in accordance with the procedure for the application of Article 85 (Part 1) of the Russian Federation Constitution is admissible if:

1) the president of the Russian Federation used conciliation procedures to resolve the disagreements between organs of state power.

2) the disagreements between organs of state power constitute a dispute about competence that comes under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 94. Limits of Verification

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court examines disputes about competence solely from the viewpoint of the Russian Federation Constitution's prescribed separation of state power into legislature, executive, and judiciary and demarcation of competence between federal organs of state power, and also from the viewpoint of the demarcation of spheres of responsibility and powers between organs of state power of the Russian Federation and organs of state power of Russian Federation components and between supreme state organs of Russian Federation components prescribed by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federation Treaty, and other treaties pertaining to the demarcation of spheres of responsibility and powers.

The examination of a case on the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of a normative act which is the object of a dispute about competence with regard to the substance of the norms, the form, and the procedure for its signing, adoption, publication, or entry into effect is possible only on the basis of a separate request and in accordance with the procedure for the examination of cases pertaining to the constitutionality of normative acts.

Article 95. The Final Ruling on the Case

On the basis of the results of an examination of a dispute about competence the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts one of the following decisions:

1) confirming the relevant organ of state power's authority to publish the act or commit the legal action that was the reason for the dispute about competence;

2) denying the relevant organ of state power's authority to publish the act or commit the legal act that was the reason for the dispute about competence.

If the Russian Federation Constitutional Court acknowledges that the publication of the act does not fall within the competence of the organ of state power that issued it, the act becomes invalid from the day given in the ruling.

Chapter XII. The Examination of Cases on the Constitutionality of Laws Following Complaints About the Violation of Citizens' Constitutional Rights and Freedoms

Article 96. The Right to Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

Citizens whose rights and freedoms are violated by a law which is applied or is due to be applied in a specific case, associations of citizens, as well as other organs and people mentioned in the federal law, have the right to lodge an individual or collective complaint with the

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Russian Federation Constitutional Court about the violation of their constitutional rights and freedoms.

In addition to the documents listed in Article 38 of this federal constitutional law, a copy of the official document confirming the application of or possibility of application of the law in question when resolving a specific case is appended to the complaint. The petitioner is issued with a copy of this document at his request by the official or organ examining the case.

Article 97. The Admissibility of the Complaint

A complaint about a law's violation of constitutional rights and freedoms is admissible if:

1) the law affects citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms;

2) the law is applied or is due to be applied in a specific case examination of which has been completed or initiated by a court or other organ which applies the law.

Article 98. The Consequences of Accepting a Complaint for Examination

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court, having accepted for examination a complaint about a law's violation of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, provides the court or other organ examining the case in which the law in question is applied or is due to be applied with notification to this effect. Notification does not entail the suspension of proceedings.

The court or other organ examining the case in which the law in question is applied or is due to be applied is entitled to suspend proceedings prior to the adoption of a ruling by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 99. Limits of Verification

The limits of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's verification of the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of the law mentioned in the complaint about the violation of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms are established by Article 86 of this federal constitutional law.

Article 100. The Final Ruling on the Case

On the basis of the results of an examination of the complaint about a law's violation of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court adopts one of the following decisions:

1) acknowledging that the law or certain provisions thereof correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution;

2) acknowledging that the law or certain provisions thereof do not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution.

If the Russian Federation Constitutional Court has acknowledged that a law applied in a specific case does not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution, the case in question should at any rate be reviewed by a competent organ in accordance with normal procedure.

If a law or certain provisions thereof is acknowledged not to correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution the judicial costs incurred by citizens and their associations should be reimbursed in accordance with prescribed procedure.

Chapter XIII. The Examination of Cases on the Constitutionality of Laws Following Courts' Requests

Article 101. An Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

When examining a case at any level and concluding that the law applied or due to be applied in the said case does not correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution, a court asks the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to verify the constitutionality of the law in question.

Article 102. Admissibility of the Request

A court's request is admissible if the law is applied or is due to be applied, in the court's opinion, in the specific case under examination.

Article 103. The Consequences of Making the Request

In the period after the court's decision to appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and prior to the adoption of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court decree proceedings on the case or implementation of the court's ruling on the case are suspended.

Article 104. Limits of Verification and Categories of Final Ruling

The limits of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's verification of the accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution of the law disputed in the court's request and the categories of final ruling on this case are prescribed by Articles 86 and 100 of this federal constitutional law.

Chapter XIV. The Examination of Cases on the Interpretation of the Russian Federation Constitution

Article 105. The Right to Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The president of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, and organs of legislative power of Russian Federation components have the right to ask the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to interpret the Russian Federation Constitution.

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Article 106. The Binding Nature of the Interpretation of the Russian Federation Constitution

The interpretation of the Russian Federation Constitution given by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is official and binding for all representative, executive, and judicial organs of state power, organs of local self-government, enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials, citizens, and their associations.

Chapter XV. The Examination of a Case on Providing a Conclusion on the Observance of the Prescribed Procedure for Accusing the President of the Russian Federation of Treason or Another Serious Crime

Article 107. Appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

A request for a conclusion [zaklyucheniye] on the observance of the prescribed procedure for accusing the president of the Russian Federation of treason or some other serious crime is sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

Article 108. The Admissibility of the Request

The request for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court to rule on the observance of the prescribed procedure for accusing the president of the Russian Federation of treason or some other serious crime is admissible if the accusation is brought by the State Duma and given Russian Federation Supreme Court findings as to indications of the relevant crime in the actions of the president of the Russian Federation.

Article 109. The Procedure for Sending a Request and Providing a Conclusion

A request to rule on the observance of the prescribed procedure for accusing the president of the Russian Federation of treason or some other serious crime is sent to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court no later than a month after the State Duma decides to make the accusation. The text of the State Duma decision making the accusation is appended to the request, along with the minutes or stenographic record of the discussion of this matter at the State Duma session and the text of all documents associated with this discussion, as well as the text of the Russian Federation Supreme Court's findings.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court should produce its conclusion within 10 days of the request being registered.

Article 111. The Conclusion Regarding the Observance of the Prescribed Procedure for Accusing the President of the Russian Federation of Treason or Some Other Serious Crime

On the basis of the results of the examination of the case the Russian Federation Constitutional Court produces one of the following conclusions:

1) that the prescribed procedure for making the accusation has been observed;

2) that the prescribed procedure for making the accusation has not been observed.

If the Russian Federation Constitutional Court rules that the prescribed procedure for accusing the president of the Russian Federation of treason or of some other serious crime has not been observed, the examination of the accusation for which the Russian Federation Constitution makes provision is suspended.

Section Four. Final Provisions

Article 111. The Staff of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The activity of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court is ensured by a staff comprising the Secretariat of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and other subunits.

The Secretariat of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court provides organizational, scientific-analytical, reference and information, and other support for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court; receives visitors; examines appeals to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court as a preliminary and in cases where they do not concern matters requiring study by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court justices; helps the justices prepare cases and other matters for examination at sessions and conferences; studies and summarizes the activity of state organs to ensure the implementation of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's rulings. Other subunits of the staff provide material-technical and social and everyday support for the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court, within the bounds of its estimated expenditure, prescribes the size, structure, and table of organization of the apparatus; ratifies the Statute on the Secretariat of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The rights, duties, and accountability of the personnel of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court staff, and also their terms of service are laid down by the laws and other normative acts on federal state service, the normative acts on the legal position of courts' staffers, and also by Russian Federation labor legislation.

Article 112. The Official Publication of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

VESTNIK KONSTITUTSIONNOGO SUDA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII is the official publication of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

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Article 113. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court Seal

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court has a seal bearing the Russian Federation state emblem and its own name.

Article 114. The Symbols of Judicial Power of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The State Flag of the Russian Federation is raised on the building occupied by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

There is a depiction of the Russian Federation State Emblem and the State Flag of the Russian Federation in the conference room of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court.

The State Flag of the Russian Federation is installed in the official premises of a Russian Federation Constitutional Court justice.

Justices of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court wear gowns in session.

Article 115. The Location of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court's permanent place of residence is the city of Moscow, capital of the Russian Federation.

Sessions of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are held in its permanent place of residence. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court can hold a session elsewhere when it deems so necessary.

Section Five. Transitional Provisions

1. Appeals which the Russian Federation Constitutional Court received prior to the entry into force of the Russian Federation Constitution are examined and resolved by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court within the limits of its powers prescribed by Article 125 of the Russian Federation Constitution.
2. The full membership of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court must be formed no later than 30 days after the entry into force of this federal constitutional law.
3. The Russian Federation Constitutional Court, following the formation of its full membership, elects a chairman, deputy chairman, and justice-secretary, and forms the membership of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court chambers.
4. Justices of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court elected prior to the entry into force of the Russian Federation Constitution, under Section 2 Paragraph 5 of the Russian Federation Constitution, retain their powers until the expiry of the term for which they were elected.
5. Material guarantees of the independence of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court and its judges which were established prior to the entry into force of this federal constitutional law are preserved.

Section Six. The Entry into Force of This Federal Constitutional Law

1. This federal constitutional law comes into force on the day that it is officially published.
2. The RSFSR Law of 12 July 1991 "On the RSFSR Constitutional Court" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RSFSR I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA RSFSR, 1991, No. 30, p 1017) shall be deemed invalid from the day that this federal constitutional law is brought into effect.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
21 July 1994, the Kremlin, Moscow.

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